This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An anamorphic converter comprising at least an anamorphic lens disposed on an image side of an imaging optical system,

wherein when a focal length conversion magnification in an arbitrary cross section X containing an optical axis of the anamorphic converter is assigned βx, a focal length conversion magnification in a cross section Y containing an optical axis and being perpendicular to the cross section X is assigned βy, an aspect ratio of an image pickup range in an image ~~surface~~ plane of the imaging optical system is assigned AR1, and an aspect ratio of an effective area of image pickup means is assigned AR2, the following relationship is established:

$$0.9 < (AR1 \times \beta x)/(AR2 \times \beta y) < 1.1$$

Claim 2 (Original): An anamorphic converter according to claim 1, wherein the anamorphic lens is provided within an afocal group.

Claim 3 (Original): An anamorphic converter according to claim 1, wherein both βx and βy are positive values, and the anamorphic converter has positive refracting powers in the cross section X and in the cross section Y.

Claim 4 (Original): An anamorphic converter according to claim 3, further comprising, from the imaging optical system side in a stated order, a first group of lenses having

a negative refracting power, a second group of lenses including at least two or more anamorphic lenses, and a third group of lenses having a positive refracting power.

Claim 5 (Original): An anamorphic converter according to claim 3, wherein the following relationship is established:

$$1 \leq \quad (AR2^2 + 1) \quad x\, \beta y^2 / (AR1^2 + 1) < 2.6$$

Claim 6 (Original): An anamorphic converter according to claim 1, wherein both $\beta x$ and $\beta y$ are negative values, and the anamorphic converter further comprises at least one negative lens and two or more anamorphic lenses.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An anamorphic converter comprising at least an anamorphic lens disposed on an image side of an imaging optical system,

wherein when a focal length conversion magnification in an arbitrary cross section X containing an optical axis of the anamorphic converter is assigned $\beta x$, and a focal length conversion magnification in a cross section Y containing an optical axis and being perpendicular to the cross section X is assigned $\beta y$, both $\beta x$ and $\beta y$ are negative values.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 1 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 1

an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An anamorphic converter comprising at least an anamorphic lens disposed on an image side of an imaging optical system,

wherein when a focal length conversion magnification in an arbitrary cross section X containing an optical axis of the anamorphic converter is assigned $\beta x$, a focal length conversion magnification in a cross section Y containing an optical axis and being perpendicular to the cross section X is assigned $\beta y$, an aspect ratio of an image pickup range in an image ~~surface~~ plane of the imaging optical system is assigned AR1, and an aspect ratio of an effective area of image pickup means is assigned AR2, the following relationships are established:

$$0.9 < (AR1 \times \beta x) / (AR2 \times \beta y) < 1.1$$

$$(AR2^2 + 1) \times \beta y^2 / (AR\,1^2 + 1) < 1$$

Claim 11 (Original): An anamorphic converter according to claim 10, wherein the anamorphic lens is provided within an afocal group.

Claim 12 (Original): An amorphic converter according to claim 10, wherein both βx and βy are positive values, and the anamorphic converter has positive refracting powers in the cross section X and in the cross section Y.

Claim 13 (Original): An anamorphic converter according to claim 12, further comprising, from the imaging optical system side in a stated order, a first group of lenses having a negative refracting power, a second group of lenses including at least two or more anamorphic lenses, and a third group of lenses having a positive refracting power.

Claim 14 (Original): An anamorphic converter according to claim 10, wherein both βx and βy are negative values, and the anamorphic converter further comprises at least one negative lens and two or more anamorphic lenses.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in [[;]] claim 10 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 10

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 2 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 3 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 4 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 5 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 6 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 7 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 2

an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 3

an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 4

an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 5

an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 6

an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 7

an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 11 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 12 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 13 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 14 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 11

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 12

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 13

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 14

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.